

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/594,995

Applicant(s)

KATAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16 and 18-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. The applicant has amended claim 19 to be dependent upon claim 18. Claim 19 was the only remaining independent claim rejected.
2. Claims 1-15,17 are cancelled.
3. Claims 16,18,20 and 22 were indicated as allowable in the previous office action and remain in allowable form.
4. All remaining claims are now in allowable form.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims **16,18-22** allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claims 18 and 20, the applicant's admitted prior art discloses an audio system comprising a virtual speaker position operating part ;a sending unit for sending DSP parameter data (the applicant's admitted prior art teaches of the DSP being under control of the CPU as such; a memory for storing the DSP parameter data; audio signal terminals corresponding to sound sources, where audio signals from the sound sources are input through the audio signal terminals; a selector for selecting a sound source from among the sound sources; a sound field processor for sound field processing the sound signal from the selected sound source using one of the DSP parameter data corresponding to the sampling frequency of the sound source selected by the selector; an output terminal, the audio signal processed by the sound field

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processor being output through the output terminal. Prior art Sekine teaches of an adjustable positional of a virtual speaker being given through the virtual speaker position operation part, of DSP data that includes data defining the adjustable position of the virtual speaker given through the virtual speaker operation part. Prior art Takeda teaches that of DSP parameter data that is prepared for each of sampling frequencies and of a memory for storing the DSP parameter data being sent from a sending unit . Prior art Nishigori discloses a sound control unit with a display having pattern icons that are specifies a variation pattern showing a trace of variation in the localization position of a sound image. The prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious the audio system further comprising a second memory which stores an initial state of the DSP parameter data, and wherein the sound field processor operates according to the DSP parameter data stored in the second memory when the DSP parameter data is missing in the first memory and wherein the sending unit comprises a display screen displaying a GUI image showing a virtual speaker item, a user adjusting the position of the virtual speaker by moving the virtual speaker time, the sending unit sending the DSP parameter data corresponding to the adjusted position of the virtual speaker by the user. Therefore the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious, an audio system as claimed in claims 18 and 20.

Claims 16,19,21 and 22 are allowable due to dependency on claims

Conclusion

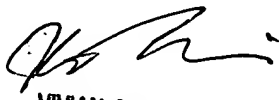
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848.

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2615. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEF


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600